

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application.

Listing of Claims:

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended): An implant for implanting into a removed portion of a patient's articular surface, said implant comprising:

a body portion having a load bearing surface and a bone-contacting surface, said load bearing surface defining a recess and having a curvature that is based on the curvature of said removed portion of said patient's articular surface; and

an insert having a load bearing surface having a curvature that substantially matches the curvature of the load bearing surface of said body portion and said removed portion of said patient's articular surface, said insert is configured to be disposed within said recess, said insert comprising a resiliently deformable material hydrogel material configured to deform and at least partially absorb a load force being placed upon said load bearing surface of said insert.

2. Cancelled

3. (Previously Presented): The implant according to claim 1, wherein said recess comprises an undercut and said insert comprises a protrusion at least partially received in said undercut.

4. Cancelled

5. Cancelled

6. (Original): The implant according to claim 1, wherein said body portion comprises a metallic material.

7-21. Cancelled

22. (Withdrawn): A method of producing a composite implant comprising:
providing an implant body comprising a recess, said recess including an undercut;
providing an insert adapted to be at least partially received in said recess, said insert
comprising a protrusion adapted to be received in said undercut; and
installing said insert in said recess.

23. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 22, wherein providing said insert
comprises molding said insert.

24. (Withdrawn): The method according to 23, wherein molding said insert
comprises injection molding.

25. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 22, wherein providing said insert
comprises cutting said insert from a body of stock.

26. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 22, wherein installing said insert in
said recess comprises positioning said protrusion at least partially in said undercut.

27. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 22, wherein said implant body
comprises a first member and a second member, said first and second members defining a recess
therebetween.

28. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 27, wherein installing said insert in
said recess comprises disposing said insert between said first and second members.

29. (Withdrawn): A method for producing a composite implant comprising:

providing an implant body comprising a recess, said recess including an undercut;
introducing a polymeric material into said recess; and
at least partially solidifying said polymeric material.

30. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 29, wherein introducing a fluid polymeric material comprises injecting a molten polymeric material into said recess.

31. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 29, further comprising providing a mold portion adjacent said recess, thereby defining a molding cavity defined by said recess and said mold portion.

32. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 29, wherein introducing said polymeric material comprises introducing a powdered polymeric material, the method further comprising heating said polymeric material.

33. (New): The implant according to claim 1, wherein said hydrogel material comprises polyhydroxy-ethyl methacrylate gel.

34. (New): The implant according to claim 1, wherein said hydrogel material comprises polyvinyl alcohol gel.

35. (New): The implant according to claim 1, wherein said body portion further comprises a mounting feature configured to secure said implant to bone underneath said removed portion of said patient's articular surface.

36. (New): The implant according to claim 35, wherein said mounting feature comprises a tapered post extending from said bone-contacting surface.

37. (New): The implant according to claim 36, further comprising a screw including a recess having a taper configured to matingly receive said tapered post.

38. (New): The implant according to claim 1, wherein said body portion further comprises a ring extending from said bone facing surface, said ring configured to be at least partially received in an excised implant site.

39. (New): The implant according to claim 38, wherein said ring comprises a plurality of radial slots spaced around a circumference of said ring.